
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Hines

HB No. 781

Abstract: Provides for the La. Homeless Assistance and Prevention Act. Creates the program for homeless assistance and prevention within the Dept. of Social Services and establishes the position of director for homeless assistance and prevention. Creates the La. Interagency Advisory Council for the Homeless and provides for its membership and purpose.

Proposed law provides for the La. Homeless Assistance and Prevention Act. Creates the program for homeless assistance and prevention within the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) under the office of the secretary.

Proposed law creates a position within the office of the homeless assistance and prevention within the office of the secretary to be called the director of homeless assistance and prevention ("director"), to be appointed by the secretary of DSS. Proposed law provides that the director shall serve as the governor and legislature's primary policy advisor on issues regarding the homeless and shall oversee the coordination of resources that pertain to homelessness. Proposed law further provides that the director shall meet quarterly with the La. Interagency Advisory Council.

Proposed law creates the La. Interagency Advisory Council within DSS. Proposed law further provides how the council shall exercise and perform its powers, duties, functions and responsibilities in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the council shall be to study evidence-based practices aimed at reducing and preventing homelessness and to recommend a ten-year comprehensive strategy to reduce homelessness.

Proposed law provides membership to be composed of the following:

- (1) The secretary of DSS or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the La. Workforce Commission or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development or his designee.

- (5) The superintendent of the Dept. of Education or his designee.
- (6) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (8) The president of the La. Housing Finance Agency or his designee.
- (9) Two representatives of local government agencies.
- (10) Two representatives of local advocacy groups for populations which are affected by homelessness.
- (11) Five representatives of providers of services to the homeless.

Proposed law provides that members shall be appointed by the governor upon recommendation by the czar and shall be appointed for three-year terms. Members shall serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires the DSS to provide staff and facilities for the council.

Proposed law requires the council to work with the director to submit annual reports including the status of the implementation of the ten-year strategy to prevent and reduce homelessness and their recommendations for the following year. The council shall submit the annual report to the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president of the Senate, the chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee, and the chair of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. Proposed law requires the director to work with the council, the office of the governor, and the legislature to implement the findings and recommendations of the annual report.

(Amends R.S. 36:801(intro.para.); Adds R.S. 36:474(H) and 478(L) and R.S. 46:2803 and 2804)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

- 1. Changes the title of the new position from "homeless czar" to "director for homeless assistance and prevention".
- 2. Changes the number of provider representatives on the Interagency Advisory Council for the Homeless from three to five.